136 Middletown Road

1735

Early owners include Timothy Hubbard (1707-1804) & Abiah Porter (1735-1800) Afterwards Col. William Bulkley owned the house and later Blakeslee Barnes.., both large landowners.
colonial

Historic Buildings of Connecticut

A sign on the house at 136 Middletown Road bears the name Timothy Hubbard and the year 1735. The house was long associated with the Bulkley family. About 1825 it was acquired by Colonel William Bullkley (died 1878), who made tinman's tools (bench shears & snips) and, for a time, spoons in a shop across the street. He had acquired the shop with his brother, Justus, in 1823. As related in Catharine Melinda North's *History of Berlin* (1916): *Horse power was used at first and ten men were employed. The tools were forged in this shop, and then were taken to what is known as Risley's saw mill, to be ground and polished. Justus Bulkeley, who lived in the house east of the shop, died in 1844. His brother William continued the business and, in 1850, put an engine into the factory. She late records:* that *After the Bulkeleys sold the Risley mill to Lyman Wilcox, they ground their tinners' tools and made rotary shears for cutting sheet metal in circles at Blair's factory. She also gives the following description:*
Mr. Bulkeley was a genial man, full of fun, and a good neighbor—one of the kind who would go out of his way to do a favor. In his day, whenever there was an auction in town, Colonel Bulkeley was called upon to conduct the sale. By his ready wit he made much fun for the people, as he led up to the final "Going, going, gone."

1934 WPA Census of Old Buildings in Connecticut Survey at the Connecticut State Library Digital Collection. Slide #003

1770 original owner; Blakeslee Barnes Middletown Road, ¼ mile west of US 5, south side, facing north. Wood house, peak roof, central brick chimney, two and a half stories, narrow, 9 window front, paired, three in gable ends, peak windows 6/6, others 12/8, hewn overhangs top of first story and top of second story. Stone foundation. Double doors with three sunken panels

.

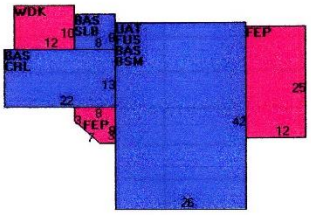
1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 136

18th century Col. William Bulkley current owner: Edmund & Dorothy Hefferman

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1735 current owner: William Cusano

Sketch



Both gentlemen were large landowners in Berlin and probably did not live in this house.

Timothy Hubbard (1707-1804) son of Samuel Hubbard & Martha Peck. In 1735 he married Abiah Porter (1735-1800). They had children including Huldah and Jesse. They died in Vermont.

Early owners include Timothy Hubbard (1707-1804) & Abiah Porter (1735-1800) Afterwards Col. William Bulkley owned the house and later Blakeslee Barnes.., both large landowners.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

#108

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Town No.: | Site No.:
UTM:
QUAD:
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR | IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) | (Historic) Colonel William Bulkley House
2. TOWN/CITY: Berlin | VILLAGE: | COUNTY: Hartford
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 136 Middletown Road | 16-3/142/3
4. OWNER(S): Heffernan, Edmund D. & Dorothy G. " " Berlin 06037 ☐ Public ☒ Private
5. USE (Present): Residence | (Historic): Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No | INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN:

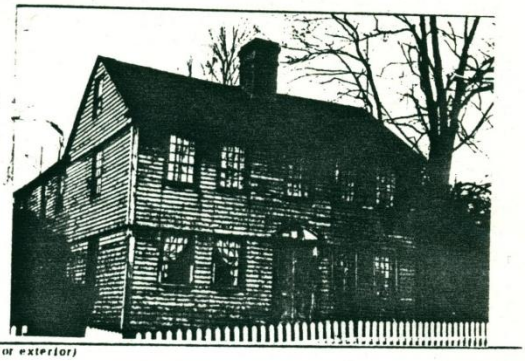
DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Vernacular | DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 18th century
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☒ Cut stone Type: Brownstone foundation
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify)
10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)
(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☒ Tin ☐ Slate
☐ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Gable end to the street
☒ Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 | APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 26' x 42'
12. CONDITION (Structural) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated | (Exterior) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved | WHEN? | (Alterations) ☐ Yes ☒ No | IF YES, EXPLAIN:
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☒ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☒ High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
Just east of Worthington Ridge, across the Wilbur Cross Highway.

108

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER: HRC
DATE: 11/84
VIEW: S,SE
NEGATIVE ON FILE: H20



COMPILED BY

NAME: Historic Resource Consultants
DATE: 12/84
ORGANIZATION: The Colt Armory
ADDRESS: 55 Van Dyke Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The Colonel William Bulkley House has a five-bay facade with a central entry. There is a hewn overhang at the second floor and at the gable ends. The entry features paneled double doors, a molded surround, and a molded semi-elliptical cap. Windows are fitted with old 12-over-8 sash; attic windows are fitted with 6-over-6. There is a large central brick chimney. To the right is a later screened-in porch; to the left is an old one-story ell. At the rear is a full-width, three-bay-deep, old cross-gabled extension; 12-over-8 sash is found in both the ell and the rear extension.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Colonel William Bulkley House is historically significant for its association with the Bulkley family, its early and longtime occupants. It is unclear exactly which member of the Bulkley clan built the house, but its history is quite clear starting in the 1820s. Colonel William Bulkley, who acquired the property about 1825, made tinman's tools and spoons in a shop located across Middletown Road from the house. Bulkley, who gained his title as an officer in the 6th Connecticut Militia, spent two years in the state legislature and was Berlin's town assessor for 10 years. When the colonel died in 1878, the property was taken over by his son William Bulkley Jr. The younger Bulkley was also a prominent local citizen; he served for many years as town clerk and was President of the Berlin Savings Bank.

(continued)

SOURCES

1855 Atlas.
1869 Atlas
Bers 1901, p. 1265-7.
North.
Communication with owner